



March 14, 2011

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Making Your Compost Product Work for You! Compost Marketing Workshop/Tour

Monday, March 28, 2011 - Wrentham Developmental Center, Graves Hall , 7 Littlefield Road, Wrentham, MA - 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

The workshop will provide marketing insights and sales techniques, including technical information on compost applications and benefits, feedstocks, quality standards, and marketing principles. The workshop is free, but all attendees must register by March 23. Lunch can be purchased for \$10, please let us know by March 23, if you would like to purchase lunch; otherwise please bring your own bagged lunch. Refreshments provided. To register or find out more information, contact Athena Lee Bradley at 802-254-3636 or by email at athena@nerc.org.

MEMA Announces Applicant Briefings for Federal Assistance

Communities from 6 Counties Eligible for Aid for January Snowstorm

As a result of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts receiving a major disaster declaration due to the snowstorm of January 12, 2011, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will be conducting six (6) Applicant Briefings, regarding the availability of Federal funding for Berkshire, Hampshire Middlesex, Norfolk, Essex, and Suffolk Counties. These briefings will explain the reimbursement process for receiving Federal funds for eligible expenses incurred by state and local governments, as well as eligible private non-profit organizations, for snow and ice removal, equipment, contracts and personnel overtime, related to emergency protective measures during the storm. This major disaster declaration does not apply to individuals, residents or businesses.

“The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency looks forward to assisting all of the affected cities and towns, state agencies and eligible private non-profit organizations in these most affected counties as they continue to make their way through this process,” stated MEMA Director Kurt Schwartz. “The funds recovered will go a long way in helping these communities.”

Communities are encouraged to send representatives from their local emergency management, public works and finance departments since the briefings will explain the reimbursement process in detail. The briefings are expected to last approximately 1.5 hours. It is imperative that communities send at least one representative to obtain the necessary forms and information to enable each community to receive proper reimbursement.

Private non-profit organizations located in these counties may be eligible to receive Federal reimbursement for their expenses. In order for a private non-profit to be eligible for reimbursement, it must be performing an essential government service and have incurred a minimum of \$1,000 in eligible expenses. To assist in identifying an eligible private non-profit, please refer to the FEMA website at www.fema.gov or contact the MEMA Disaster Recovery Department at (508) 820-2055.

Application Briefing Schedule.

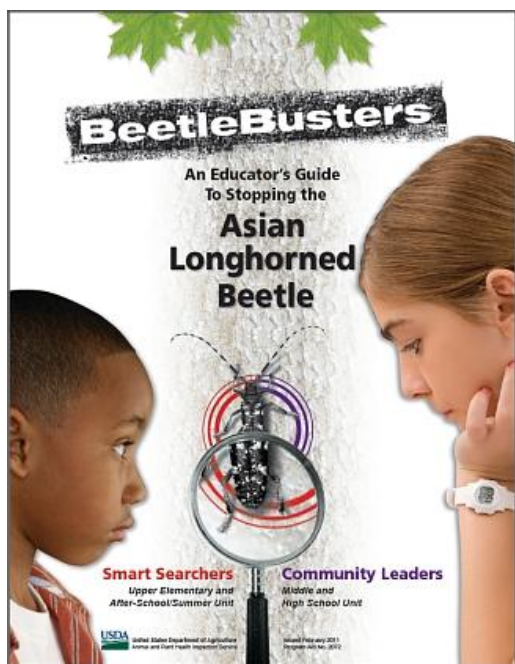
(note: Communities can attend any briefing. It is not necessary that you attend the briefing in your county.)

Monday, March 28, 2011 @ 9:00am Berkshire County: Berkshire Community College Koussevitzky Arts Center Rm.#K11 1350 Main Street, Pittsfield, MA	Monday, March 28, 2011 @ 1:30pm Hampshire County: Hatfield Town Hall 2nd Floor 59 Main Street, Hatfield, MA
Thursday, March 31, 2011 @ 10:00am Norfolk County: The Four Points Sheraton Hotel 1125 Boston-Providence Turnpike Norwood, MA	Friday, April 1, 2011 @ 9:30am Middlesex County: Littleton Police Station 500 Great Road Littleton, MA
Monday, April 4, 2011 @ 9:30am Middlesex/Suffolk County: Melrose Memorial Hall 590 Main Street, MA	Monday, April 4, 2011 @ 1:00pm Essex County: Topsfield Fairground, Coolidge Hall 207 Boston Street, Topsfield, MA

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is the state agency responsible for coordinating federal, state, local, voluntary and private resources during emergencies and disasters in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. MEMA provides leadership to: develop plans for effective response to all hazards, disasters or threats; train emergency personnel to protect the public; provide information to the citizenry; and assist individuals, families, businesses and communities to mitigate against, prepare for, and respond to and recover from emergencies, both

natural and manmade. For additional information about MEMA and Preparedness, go to www.mass.gov/mema. Follow MEMA updates on Facebook and Twitter.

Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB): New Science Curriculum from USDA Just in Time for Spring!



Announcing Beetle Busters: A Real-World Environmental Science Program - FREE from the USDA - Order Your FREE Copy at <http://BeetleBustersKit.com>

Dear Educator:

You've likely heard about the threat of the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) to the trees in your community. This invasive species has devastated other towns around the country, causing entire neighborhoods to lose many of their trees. And in fact, many science educators just like you have been seeking a curriculum tailored to this critical issue – for as you know, the best way to make science engaging and meaningful to students is to make it real.

Now, you can bring local science right into your classroom with Beetle Busters – a fun, hands-on science program brought to you by the USDA. You and your

students can take action together to help stop the spread of the ALB by recognizing the beetle, searching for it and reporting your findings directly to USDA!

Components At-a-Glance:

32-page Teacher's Guide, Asian Longhorned Beetle ID Cards (classroom set), ALB Bookmarks (classroom set), Online Game: Freeze & Collect – for in-class or at-home play

Program Highlights:

The multi-unit program includes standards-based, age-appropriate activities for 3rd through 8th grades and 9th-10th grade science classes, and includes a unit for after-school programs.

The Web site includes a wealth of additional resources, printable materials, and more! Check out http://beetlebusters.info/beABeetleBuster_educators.php to:

Obtain supplemental resources and materials, Report your class's search-and-report findings, Access the all-new online game, Freeze and Collect, Follow the ALB on Facebook and Twitter

You can achieve your teaching goals while challenging your students to make a difference in your community.

Order your FREE kit online at <http://BeetleBustersKit.com> today! Don't wait! Supplies are limited and are fulfilled on a first come, first served basis.

Beetle Busters is the newest educational component of USDA's ongoing effort to eradicate the invasive Asian longhorned beetle in at-risk communities across the United States. Learn more about this initiative at <http://www.BeatleBusters.info>

Asparagus Revenue Market Loss Assistance Payment Program (ALAP)

Asparagus Revenue Market Loss Assistance Payment (ALAP) Program compensates producers for revenue losses resulting from imports during the 2004 through 2007 crop years. Eligible asparagus producers will receive a market loss payment based upon the marketing category of their 2003 crop of asparagus. The 2008 Farm Bill provides up to \$15 million in market loss payments to 2003-crop asparagus producers.

To qualify for ALAP, producers must: Have produced and marketed asparagus in commercial quantities in the U.S. during both crop years 2003 and 2007, and; Meet highly erodible land and wetland provisions. Additional ALAP payment eligibility requirements will apply for the applicable marketing category that exceeds available funding. ALAP payments will be calculated based upon an eligible producer's 2003 asparagus production quantity for fresh marketed and/or process or frozen market asparagus.

Maximum payment rates have been determined according to the following:

Marketing Category - Processed or Frozen Market Crop Asparagus - Maximum Payment Rate - \$1.08 per pound. Fresh-Crop Asparagus - \$1.06 per pound

Sign-up for the ALAP ends on April 8, 2011. Please contact County Executive Director, Ted C. Smiarowski, Jr. at the Hampshire/Hampden County FSA Office 413-585-1000 extension 2 or your local County FSA Office for further information.

Massachusetts Flowers Growers Association(MFGA) Announces Annual Scholarship

Each year MFGA sponsors a \$4,000 college scholarship. The scholarship is open to Massachusetts residents planning to attend college and study in floriculture or related fields. The successful applicant will receive \$1,000 for each year of study up to four years. Students are encouraged to apply for the scholarship before the application deadline of May 15th.

The scholarship application is available online at www.massflowergrowers.com or by contacting the MFGA office at 781-275-4811.



MDAR's mission is to ensure the long-term viability of local agriculture in Massachusetts. Through its four divisions – [Agricultural Development](#), [Animal Health](#), [Crop and Pest Services](#), and [Technical Assistance](#) – MDAR strives to support, regulate, and enhance the Commonwealth's agricultural community, working to promote economically and environmentally sound food safety and animal health measures, and fulfill agriculture's role in energy conservation and production. For more information, go to www.mass.gov/agr or follow us at www.twitter.com/agcommishsoares for the latest agricultural trends and updates. To keep up to date on workshops and events, visit www.mass.gov/agr/events/coming_up.htm.